

Implementation Of A New Model Of Telemedicine In Montana: GRECC Connect

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INTRODUCTION

- GRECC Connect (GC) represents a unique model of care that provides geriatric consultation, recommendations, and support to rural primary care providers for their older Veteran patients.
- This project serves Veterans through partnership between the SLC VA GC and MT VA Mental Health team.

METHODS

- Referrals to GC are channeled through the Montana VA MH and Primary Care MH Integration (PCMHI) teams.
- Consultations are provided by VA Video Connect (VVC) and/or phone calls with patients and caregivers.
- Recommendations provided by GC consultations to providers and patients include appropriate use or discontinuation of medications, transitions of care, caregiver support, specialized management of geriatric syndromes and dementia with behavioral disturbances, among others.

POPULATION

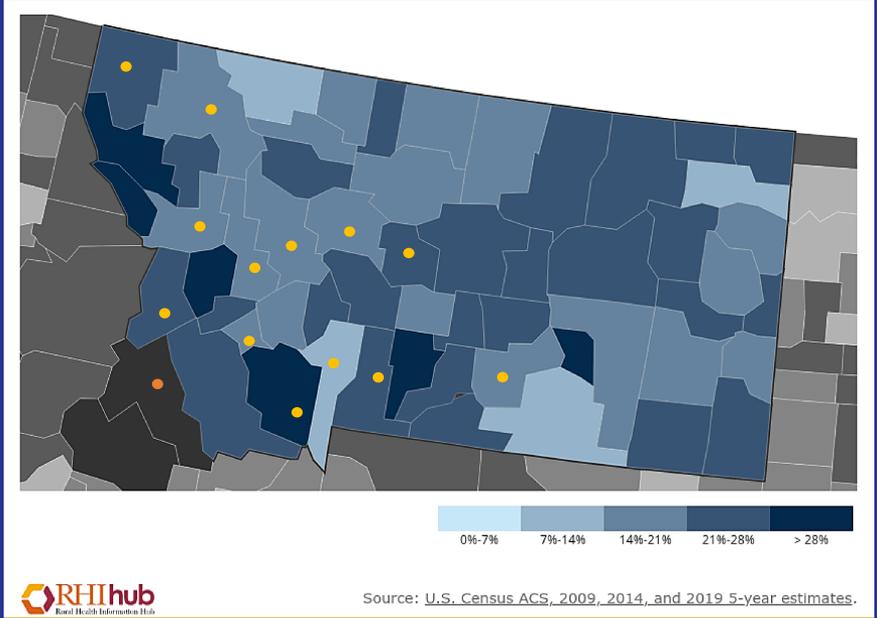
- 31 patients.
- Mean age is 77 years old.
- Mean rurality is 87%.
- Miles of travel saved= 58,978.

Reasons for referral	N*
Medication review	19
Cognitive complaints	8
Other behavioral disturbance/ psychiatric concerns	7



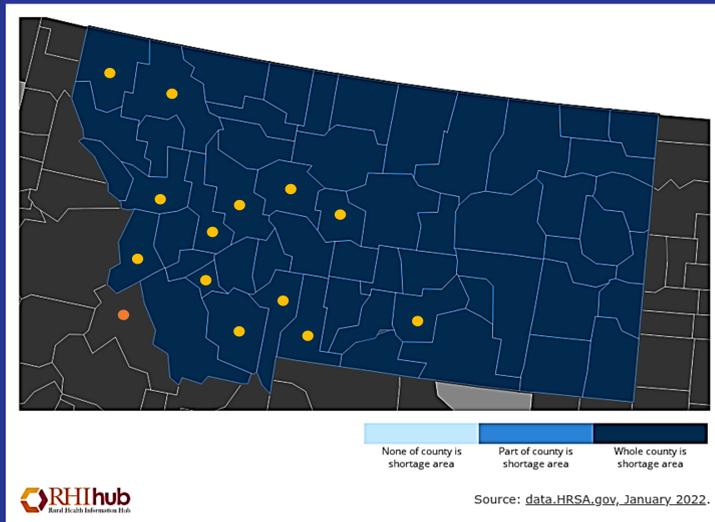
Geographic Reach of GRECC Connect

Population Over Age 65 in Montana by County

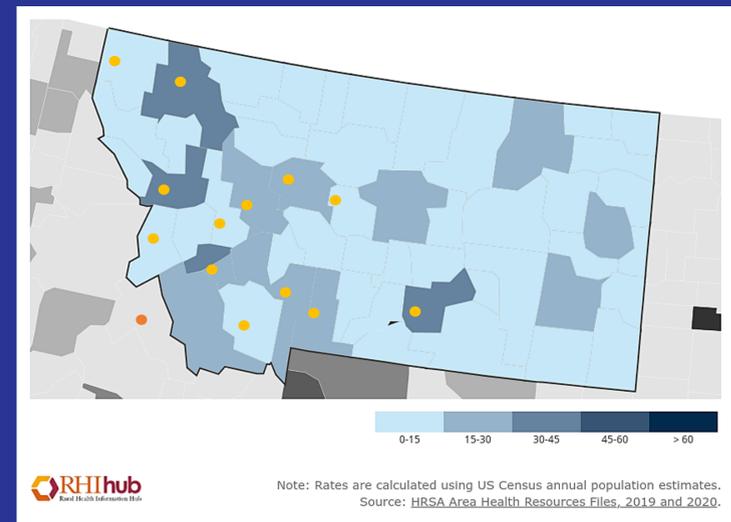


- Where our Montana Veterans are located
- 1 Veteran in Lemhi County Idaho

Health Professionals Shortage Areas: Mental Health, by County



Total Physicians per 10,000 people



MONTANA VA MH TEAM


 Patricia L. Johnson
 Clinical Neuropsychology


 Joanna L. McCormick
 Clinical Geropsychology


 Justin M. Ryder
 Psychiatrist


 Rosanna J. Bailey
 Psychologist

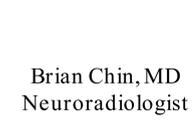

 Danielle M. Kahlo
 Clinical Psychologist

SLC GRECC CONNECT TEAM


 Paul Eleazer, MD
 Geriatrician


 Randall W. Rupper, MD
 Geriatrician


 Darion Bevan
 Clinical Pharmacist


 Brian Chin, MD
 Neuroradiologist


 Kathleen J. Hoenig
 GC Coordinator

CONCLUSION

- The SLC GC and Montana MH collaboration is an example of how the use of tele-health technologies can improve access to geriatric care for older rural Veterans.
- Future research will focus on outcomes measurement.



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